



SPORTS

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THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2002

'A' midgets engineer late rally to prolong huge winning streak

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Milton's A midgets set new standards for dominance through the first half of the season.

But Sunday evening they switched gears and displayed a knack for drama — erasing a late deficit to preserve local rep hockey's longest win streak in recent memory.

The Action Utility Trailers Winterhawks' 21st straight victory was very much in doubt until the final frame against visiting Hespeler. Up to that point, the hosts had delivered a somewhat lacklustre performance — due partly to a shortened bench, with three players and head coach Chris Brennan serving suspensions.

But Kyle Strong, Jon Ram and Ian Kornack scored in succession — within a six-and-a-half minute span — during an up-from-the-ashes third period to topple the upset-minded Shamrocks 4-2.

Ram's game winner was an unassisted effort on the powerplay, following an interference call against the visiting netminder.

Counterpart Aaron Clarke made two

dynamite pad saves at crunch time to keep the midgets' perfect record intact. Overall, he faced just 15 shots — getting beat on a goal-mouth scramble and powerplay wrap-around respectively.

Despite missing sturdy defencemen Jessie Cabral and Brett Taylor, Milton had only a couple of serious breakdowns in its own end. Offense was a much different story through periods one and two — which were marred by sub-par execution and a general lack of finish.

Kornack ended the night with three points — having assisted on goals one and two before sinking the insurance marker — while putting the Winterhawks on the board five minutes into the game was on a point shot through traffic was Adam Clerici.

Milton began last week in its usual commanding fashion, dumping host Woolwich 8-2. Phil Foley led the hit parade.

The Winterhawks were hoping to make it 22 in a row last night when they traveled to Elora. Results were not available at press time.

Check injures Haydar

November 17, 2002 marked a big first for Darren (Mini) Haydar — in more ways than one.

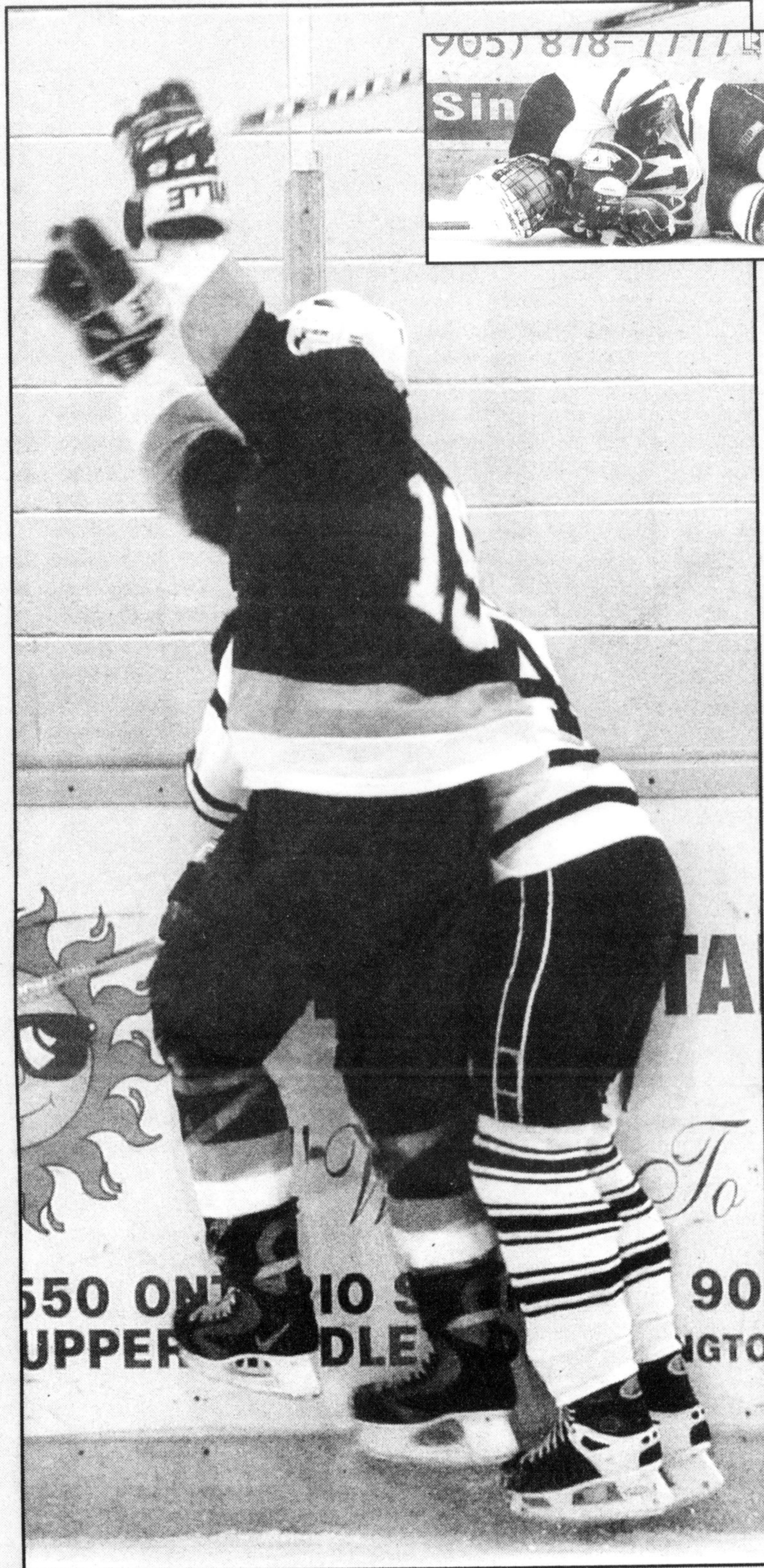
The Milton superstar not only made his NHL debut with the Nashville Predators at the United Center that night, but also sustained the first significant injury of his hockey career. Haydar initially appeared to be okay following a thunderous third-period check from Chicago Blackhawks defenceman Steve Poapst, but was later found to have suffered a concussion.

As a result, he's missed the last three games with his AHL Milwaukee Admirals. He flew back to Nashville Sunday evening

and was re-examined yesterday. Results were not available at press time.

Up until now, the AHL's Rookie of the Month for October had never missed a game due to injury — including during his four years at New Hampshire University, where he holds records for consecutive games played and total number of games played. Haydar was hoping to be cleared to play in time to catch up with the Admirals for either tonight's game in San Antonio or tomorrow's game in Cincinnati.

Despite missing three games, he remains atop the team scoring race with 10 goals and 10 assists in 15 games.



Ouch! That's gotta hurt

Milton District Mustang Patrick O'Reilly lays on the ice (above) after being taken hard into the boards by a Q.E. Park opponent during Thursday's 4-2 home-opening loss to the Eagles at Memorial Arena. The Mustangs staged a impressive third-period uprising the following afternoon in Oakville but were eventually out-distanced 5-3 by Appleby College. MD will look to break into the win column Thursday afternoon when they play host to Oakville's Loyola Hawks. Game time is 3:30 p.m.

Photos by **GRAHAM PAINE**



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